(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated demand of coal for running power plants in the country; and

(d) the steps being taken to import coal for power plants of NTPC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) There is a demand supply gap in respect of coal in the country. National coal demand estimated by Planning Commission for the year 2005-06 is 445.65 Mt. The indigenous supply for the year is estimated to 402.51 million tonnes. This leaves a demand supply gap of 43.14 million tonnes.

(c) Estimated demand of coal as estimated by Planning Commission for running power plants, both utilities and captive, for the year 2005-06 is 330.91 million tonnes.

(d) NTPC plans to import 1.75 lakhs tonnes of coal per month with effect from April, 2005 aggregating 2.1 million tonnes per annum.

Sale of coal

2482. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to permit sale of coal produced during the development of mines;

(b) if so, whether this coal would be sold at Government administered prices; and

(c) in what manner the price would be determined?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYNA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A committee constituted in the Ministry under the Chairmanship of the Additional Secretary (Coal) with determine the price of coal produced during the development stage.